

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

SITUATION REPORT # 8

1400 Hours February 19, 2008

The next Situation Report will be 22 February 2008 at 1400 hours.

SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires were reported in 62 localities across the Commonwealth. High winds fueled the fires and made fires difficult to contain. Several localities submitted requests for assistance. [Map - Localities Reporting Brush Fires](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION

- EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Routine status and operating with normal staffing.
- State of Emergency:** Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.
- Protective Actions:** Local Emergencies Declared on February 10, 2008:
Bedford County
Roanoke County
Caroline County
Orange County
Dinwiddie County
Lunenburg County
Nelson County
King George County
Henrico County
Hanover County
Charlotte County
- Local Emergencies Declared on February 11, 2008
Louisa County
- ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Media interest in the fires has decreased and the Joint Information Center has stood down. VDEM Public Affairs and VDOF Public Affairs continue to respond to media calls as needed.

WEATHER

- Forecast:** Southwest VA: Tuesday, 19 February: Red Flag Warning in effect until 1800 hrs. Mostly cloudy; 40% chance of rain and snow showers with little or no accumulation in the mountains; high temperatures uppers 30's to low 50's; west winds 15 to 30 MPH with gusts up to 50 MPH. Night: mostly cloudy; 40% chance of snow late; low temperatures upper 20's to low 30's; west winds 10 to 20 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH. Wednesday, 20 February: cloudy; 70% chance of snow in the morning then rain and snow showers in the afternoon in the mountains with 1-2 inch accumulation; high temperatures mid 30's to upper 40's; west winds 15 to 25 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH increasing to 45 MPH in the afternoon. Night: mostly cloudy; 70% chance of snow and rain showers with little or no accumulation; low temperatures upper teens to low 20's; northwest winds 10 to 20 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 16 – Military Affairs: Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Joint Operations Center **returned to normal operations on 17 February**. 100 National Guard were deployed on 11 February to assist Forestry with operations. **All National Guard personnel have returned to base and were off State Active Duty at 1700 hrs, 16 February.**

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The Forestry Command Center is operational **and monitoring mop up operations at the Angel Fire (Carvins Cove, Roanoke County).**

All VDOF managed fires are 100% contained. **30 VDOF personnel remain on scene at the Angel Fire, (Carvins Cove, Roanoke County) conducting mop up operations and monitoring the effect of the high winds on the burn area.** VDOF and localities responded to 357 fires which burned 13,938 acres. The fires damaged or destroyed 9 homes, 19 other structures and 7 vehicles. VDOF advises this was worst single day fire siege in Virginia in the last 70 years. [Fire Summation Report 15 Feb 08](#)

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services:

American Red Cross (ARC)

Roanoke Civic Center sheltered closed on 14 February. Roanoke Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross has provided meals for approximately 110 firefighters during the period 12 – 16 February.

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 12 – Energy: State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Power was restored to all electric customers on 14 February.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC coordinated **17** requests for assistance from 14 localities.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION

Finance Unit: Request was sent to State Agencies on 15 February to submit cost estimates related to the brush fires. Final costs are to be submitted by Wednesday, February 27, 2008.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

All local emergency operations centers have closed. Fourteen localities requested assistance and twelve localities declared local emergencies.

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